

The Renzi Report

VOL. 4 ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2006

Your Direct Link to the News and Events from Our Nation's Capital and Rural Arizona

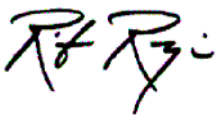
Dear Fellow Arizonan:

Last fall I proposed the first part of a new border strategy for America called the "Red Zone Defense." The "Red Zone Defense" is a comprehensive, aggressive and proactive border strategy which proposes to use state-of-the-art technology to track immigrants before they cross the border. Now recent reports show that Mexican military units are guarding drug shipments smuggled across our borders. This spring I will unveil part two of the "Red Zone Defense" and introduce legislation to allow states to establish their own state border guard units.

I am also working with federal agencies to help prepare Arizona for a potentially disastrous fire season because of the dryer than normal winter we have experienced. I will work to ensure that our firefighting resources are well placed and forward deployed near communities in rural Arizona that are at great risk from forest and wildland fires.

As always, feel free to tell your family members, friends and neighbors about the Renzi Report. You can sign up to receive this email and find additional information about developments in Congress at my website. Just click on the following link: <http://www.house.gov/renzi>.

If you have any questions or comments about this e-newsletter or anything else, please e-mail me at rick.renzi@mail.house.gov and I will get back to you as quickly as possible. Thank you and may God Bless America.



Rick Renzi

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Congressman Rick Renzi reads to youngsters as part of the Reach Out and Read program at the Flagstaff Pediatric Care facility in Flagstaff recently. The program is meant to enhance the literacy development of children, and provides books for visiting children.

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Arizona Border Security Update

Congressman Renzi Calls for State Border Guard Units

Congressman Rick Renzi (AZ-1) on Fox News Channel's "The Big Story with John Gibson" called for state border guard units to help increase security along America's border with Mexico. Renzi raised the issue after media reports stated that Mexican military units had crossed the U.S. border more than 200 times, sometimes engaging in armed standoffs with local law enforcement authorities and U.S. Border Patrol agents. Congressman Renzi also sent a letter to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice requesting an immediate dialogue with the Mexican government to determine the validity of the reports, and to prevent such incursions in the future.

"These reports of Mexican military units providing armed escorts to drug and human smuggling operations represent narco-terror in its purest form," said Congressman Renzi. "Our borders are under attack by sophisticated organizations that have no qualms about firing upon our border patrol units. These recent reports highlight the changing nature of the border security issue. As we get tougher and more committed, so do the organizations committed to smuggling death and terror across our borders. It is time for a new strategy. States like Arizona should be able to supplement federal border enforcement with **federally financed state border guard units**. States have a better ability to react quickly to these new border threats because the federal government is unable to graduate enough new agents from its academies to meet this growing problem."



Congressman Rick Renzi called for State Border Guard Units on Fox News recently to enhance security for Border States like Arizona. Renzi will soon be introducing legislation to allow states to call up their own border auxiliary forces to fight violence along the border.

Congressman Renzi to Introduce Part 2 of "Red Zone Defense"

Last fall Congressman Renzi introduced the "Red Zone Defense," a aggressive border strategy to use state-of-the-art technology to track immigrants before they cross the border. Renzi's "Red Zone Defense" was approved as part of the larger immigration bill that passed the House late last year. Renzi said he will soon introduce the second part of the "Red Zone Defense," to give states along the southern border the flexibility to provide for their own defense and establish their own state border guard units. These units will be coordinated on the federal level, but made up of National Guard, state public safety officials, and local and tribal law enforcement officials. This new partnership will provide an important layer of border protection that does not currently exist.

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Rural Arizona Legislative Update

Renzi Calls on Administration Officials to Strategically Place Firefighting Resources Across Rural Arizona

Congressman Rick Renzi (AZ-1) wrote to Interior Department Secretary Gale Norton and Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns to express his concerns over the impending fire season and the strategic placement of firefighting resources in Arizona. Renzi called on both Norton and Johanns to detail the size and capability of firefighting aircraft and the number of personnel available to Arizona during the fire season to ensure the federal government is prepared to battle wildfires in the state.

“Rural Arizona is facing a perfect storm in our forests with the deadly combination of extended drought, record bark beetle infestation, and forest managers hamstrung by red tape and frivolous legal maneuvers,” said Congressman Renzi. “Federal wildfire fighting efforts are essential to the safety of our forests and our communities. We must work together to ensure that the placement of firefighting resources corresponds with the highest threat level in order to better prevent and respond to wildfires in rural Arizona.”

Secretary Norton has announced an April tour of Northern Arizona – details to follow.

Renzi Introduces Community Forest Restoration Program Bill

Congressman Renzi recently introduced the Community Forest Restoration Expansion Act of 2005 (HR 3590) in the House. This legislation expands the tremendously successful Collaborative Forest Restoration Program

(CFRP) program currently in place in New Mexico to Arizona.

The goals of Community Forest Restoration Program are to:

- Reduce the threat of high intensity wildfires and insect and disease infestations;
- Promote healthy watersheds;
- Improve the functioning of forest ecosystems and enhance biodiversity;
- Improve forest management techniques through communication and joint problem solving;
- Improve the use of, or add value to, small diameter trees;
- Encourage sustainable communities and forests through collaborative partnerships;
- Develop, demonstrate, and evaluate ecologically sound forest restoration techniques.

“This program is working in New Mexico and I strongly believe that Arizona’s forests deserve the same attention,” said Renzi. “Make no mistake, adequate amounts and strategic placement of firefighting resources are vital to our nation’s forests, but we have an opportunity to prevent forest fires by improving the health of our forests through this legislation.”

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Arizona Native American Update



Congressman Renzi answers questions and greets supporters after his third annual address to the Navajo Nation recently. Renzi pledged to keep fighting for quality of life improvements for residents of the Navajo Nation, and Native American communities across Arizona and the nation.

Renzi Makes Third Annual Address to Navajo Nation Council

Congressman Rick Renzi recently made his third annual address to the Navajo Nation and commented that the year was full of accomplishments.

Congressman Renzi touched upon the \$200,000 in federal funds to boost the Navajo Nation's tribal law enforcement initiatives, and Renzi promised that he will continue to fight for more funding in the future.

Renzi was also able to secure a new \$1.8 million grant for the Navajo Nation Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services. The grant will improve employment opportunities and

create new job opportunities for those living with disabilities on the Navajo Nation.

The program concentrates on programs that help transition individuals from school to work. And the \$2 million federal grant to help Dine College develop and strengthen its teaching curriculum so the institution can achieve four-year status.

Renzi said the \$5 million in transportation funding he secured last year would go toward building new roads for rural areas so it is easier for children to get to school and safer for those in need of emergency medical services.

Renzi said he also fought to secure a \$4 million grant for a new Indian Health Service Clinic in Kayenta, and a new \$1.2 million loan to build a dental clinic in the St. Michaels.

Congressman Renzi said looking forward to the year ahead he would work to continue to obtain funding to improve transportation and housing for the Navajo Nation.

"I will continue to fight for veterans health care funding and work with the Veterans Administration to establish a clinic on the Navajo Nation. We can never adequately repay our veterans for their service, but we can ensure that our nation keeps its promise to assist them after they have served."

Renzi said he will also continue the fight for needed public safety funding. The Navajo Nation represents one-third of all Native Americans living on reservations, yet receives only about 10 percent of the total BIA law enforcement budget.

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In Case You Missed It...

Against Abuse receives award from Congress for foster care

http://www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=16018500&BRD=1817&PAG=461&dept_id=68561&rfi=6

Tunnel Vision

<http://www.investors.com/editorial/IBDArticles.asp?artsec=20&artnum=4&issue=20060127>

Dispensing books to babies

http://www.azdailysun.com/non_sec/nav_includes/story.cfm?storyID=123648

War on drugs sparks incursions, officials say

<http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/mexico/tijuana/20060120-9999-7m20border.html>

Old Courthouse Clock Tower Project completed, attention turns to roof repairs

http://www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=15952153&BRD=1817&PAG=461&dept_id=222089&rfi=6

U.S. action demanded on Mexico military incursions

<http://www.wpherald.com/storyview.php?StoryID=20060119-100623-7220r>

Lawmaker hits incursions by Mexico military

<http://washingtontimes.com/national/20060119-123013-9068r.htm>

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